

may consist of one column or one row of cells. If you specify a range of columns and rows, only the first column is used.

- *List* – allow only values or strings specified in a list. Strings and values can be mixed. Numbers evaluate to their value, so if you enter the number 1 in the list, the entry 100% is also valid.
- *Text length* – allow entries whose length matches the condition on the number of characters that has been set.
- *Custom* – allow entries that correspond to a formula entered in the *Formula* box.
- **Allow empty cells** – in conjunction with **Tools > Detective > Mark Invalid Data**, this defines that blank cells are shown as invalid data (disabled) or not shown (enabled).
- **Show selection list** – shows a list of all valid strings or values to select from. The list can be opened either by clicking the down arrow at the right of the cell, or by selecting the cell and pressing *Alt+↓*.
- **Sort entries ascending** – sorts the selection list in ascending order and filters duplicates from the list. If not checked, the order from the data source is taken.
- **Source** – enter the cell range that contains the valid values or text.
- **Entries** – enter the entries that will be valid values or text strings.
- **Data** – select the comparative operator that you want to use from the drop-down list. The available operators depend on what you have selected in the *Data* drop-down list. For example, if you select **valid range**, the *Minimum* and *Maximum* input boxes replace the *Value* box.
- **Value** – enter the value for the data validation option that you selected in the *Data* drop-down list.
- **Minimum** – enter the minimum value for the data validation option that you selected in the *Data* drop-down list.
- **Maximum** – enter the maximum value for the data validation option that you selected in the *Data* drop-down list.
- **Formula** – enter a formula that can be interpreted as true (non-zero) or false (zero) to provide a custom validation. For example, assuming cell A4 was selected before opening the dialog, you could enter `ISEVEN(A4)` to indicate that only even values should be entered in cell A4.

Input Help options

Enter the message to be displayed when the cell or cell range is selected in the spreadsheet (Figure 39).

- **Show input help when cell is selected** – displays the message that you enter in the *Title* and *Input help* boxes when the cell or cell range is selected in the sheet. If you enter text in the *Title* and *Input help* boxes and then deselect this option, the text will not be displayed.
- **Title** – enter the title to be displayed when the cell or cell range is selected.
- **Input help** – enter the message to be displayed when the cell or cell range is selected.